

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 2, 3, 8, 12, 14, 16, 19, 30, 31, 32, 37, 40, 41, 45, 49, 53, 65, 82, and 89 are amended, claims 1, 10, 11, 22-29, 38, 39, 46, 50, 57-64, 75-79, 81, and 85 are canceled and new claim 91 is added herein. With entry of this amendment, claims 2-9, 12-21, 30-37, 40-45, 47-49, 51-56, 65-74, 80, 82-84, and 86-91 will be pending.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 30, 31, 37, 46, 49, and 40 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 30 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 29. Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 37 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 35. Claim 45 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 46. Claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 45 and 48.

Claims 30, 31, 37, 45 and 49 have further been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. More specifically, these claims have been amended to replace "while maintaining the Ethernet frame" with "while maintaining the format of the Ethernet packet". As amended, claims 30, 31, 37, 45, and 49 are believed to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Accordingly, claims 30, 31, 37, 45, and 49 are submitted to be in proper form for allowance. Claims 2-7 depending from claim 30, claims 8, 9, 14 and 15 depending from claim 31, claims 16- 21, 32-36, and 40 depending from claim 37, and claims 47, 48, 51, 52, and 80 depending from claim 45, are also submitted as being in proper form for allowance.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 85 and 89 if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 41 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 85, which was dependent therefrom. Claim 89 has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 41.

Accordingly, claims 41 and 89 are submitted to be in proper form for allowance.

Claims 12, 13, 42-44, 86-88, and 90, depending from claim 41 are also submitted as being in proper form for allowance.

Claim 53, directed to a computer program product and claim 65, directed to a system for conveying network management information, have been amended to include the limitations of claim 37. New claim 91 is directed to an apparatus claim containing the limitations of claim 37. Claims 53, 65, and 91 are submitted as allowable for the same reasons as claim 37. Claims 54-56, 82, and 83 depending from claim 53, and claims 66-74, depending from claim 65, are also submitted as allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8695.

Respectfully submitted,



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